

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claim 1 is pending, Claims 2-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The specification has been amended to include a cross reference to related applications. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

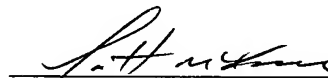
Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

JJK:SAM:KDP:dmr



James J. Kulbaski

Registration No. 34,648

Scott A. McKeown

Registration No. 42,866